

balzer projects

1 November to 21 December 2019

Simon Heusser: Artefact Uprising

Opening: 31 October 2019, 18h to 20h

Finissage: 21 December 2019, 16h to 18h

Simon Heusser's works find themselves between painting and sculpture.

Inlays and assemblages on wooden panels are created in a sculptural process.

Often found and pre-existing shapes are cut to size, assembled, and stacked on top of each other. Due to their materiality, the works have a strong plastic effect. Since his master's studies at the Zurich University of the Arts (diploma exhibition 2017), polychrome linoleum paintings and monotypes are at the center of his artistic practice.

Heusser techniques are strictly analogue and based on traditional crafts. The results are objects, sculptures and architectural elements in public spaces. In 2016, Heusser was represented at Manifesta 11 Zurich with a solo exhibition as part of the parallel events. His walk-in sculpture "Paradise Retreat" served as a public retreat and was exhibited a year later side by side with the Barcelona Pavilion by Mies van der Rohe.

Simon Heusser about his new work:

"I work conceptual, abstract and yet purposeful to describe and reflect upon my environment in various forms. During my stay as "Artist in Residence" at the Kunsthalle Mallorca CCA Andratx in August 2019, I intensively explored nature, materials and structures. Above all, material and stone fragments and artefacts occupied my artistic thinking and process. While searching for local "production material" for new works, I came across a rubble heap with fragments of ceramics and natural stone. This place became my material pool. The stone slabs and splinters I found, almost functioning as independent objects and artefacts, were then taken into my studio, cleaned and processed.

My finds bear traces of use such as drillings wholes and cut-outs and testify to their earlier use as architectural elements. I have incorporated them into my flat wall works and thus new forms and bodies have been created. The fragments oscillate between seemingly banal matter and exclusively charged reality, which tells of our present and existence".

Simon Heusser (*1985, Zurich) grew up in Switzerland and Canada. He studied at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), at the Basel School of Art and Design (HGK) and at the Stockholm University of the Arts (Konstfack). His most recent exhibitions include Reversible at Trät Zurich (2019), Seedmachine at La Rada, Locarno (2018), Daydream Retreat at SWAB Art Fair, Barcelona (2017) and the solo exhibition Reliefs of a Dreamer at Gallery Katz Contemporary, Zurich (2017). In August 2019 he was invited to an Artist-in-Residence at the Kunsthalle ACC Andratx (ES).

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